

MEMORANDUM

To: Parties in PSB Docket No. 7081

From: Judith C. Whitney, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Re: Appointment of VSPC Public Members

Date: October 5, 2007

In its Order of June 20, 2007, in Docket No. 7081, the Public Service Board ("Board") approved, with certain modifications and conditions, a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"). The MOU created the Vermont System Planning Committee ("VSPC"), which will play a key role in a new planning process for Vermont's electric transmission system. Paragraph 71 of the MOU provides:

The Board shall appoint three persons for terms of five years each to serve as voting participants on the VSPC. One such person shall be appointed to articulate the interests of residential consumers; one such person shall be appointed to articulate the interests of commercial and industrial consumers; and one such person shall be appointed to articulate the interests of environmental protection. These representatives shall be empowered to participate in all meetings and shall function in an independent capacity, and their positions on a matter shall not bind the Board.

The Board also determined in its June 20, 2007, Order that it will appoint three alternate public members to increase the likelihood that representatives of residential, commercial and industrial, and environmental interests will be present at VSPC functions.

The Board solicited nominations and applications for the VSPC public members through several public advertisements, two memoranda to the parties in Docket No. 7081, and letters to several stakeholder organizations. After careful consideration of the candidates who have applied or been nominated, the Board has made the following appointments for the public members of the VSPC, for five-year terms that expire on October 5, 2012:

Jennifer R.S. Cole of Charlotte, Vermont, to articulate the interests of residential consumers;

Janet Bombardier of International Business Machines Corporation ("IBM"), to articulate the interests of commercial and industrial consumers;¹ and

James Moore of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, to articulate the interests of environmental protection.

The Board has also appointed Sandra Levine of the Conservation Law Foundation as the alternate public member to articulate the interests of environmental protection, for a five-year term that expires on October 5, 2012. The Board has not yet appointed alternates for the residential and for the commercial/industrial public members.² The Board believes that it would be valuable for alternate members to attend VSPC meetings, even if the corresponding principal member is also attending, in order that the alternates may remain fully informed of the VSPC's activities. Thus, the Board encourages alternates to attend the VSPC meetings, to the extent that their schedules permit.³

The Board greatly appreciates the willingness of these individuals to serve as public members on the VSPC. The Board looks forward to their participation in the VSPC's important role in helping plan for Vermont's electric transmission system, including the full, fair and timely consideration of cost-effective non-transmission alternatives.

cc: Jennifer R.S. Cole
Janet Bombardier
James Moore
Sandra Levine

¹The Board recognizes that IBM is a significantly larger electric consumer than the typical Vermont commercial or industrial customer. However, there was only one other candidate for the commercial/industrial position. Because that other candidate serves as a consultant to Vermont electric utilities, the Board decided that Ms. Bombardier would be the more appropriate representative for commercial and industrial consumers.

²The Board welcomes additional nominations and applications for the two remaining alternate public members.

³The provision for payment of a per diem and travel expenses for the public members does not explicitly address payment for an alternate when the principal public member is also in attendance. The Board believes there would be substantial value in the alternates' attendance in exchange for relatively minor additional per diem and travel expenses. The Board thus encourages the VSPC to clarify and confirm the availability of such payments to alternate public members who attend VSPC meetings when the corresponding principal public member is also in attendance.